

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CPR-01 /061 W
-----191231Z 010229 /12

O 181155Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2442

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CF

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF NGOUABI

REF: KINSHASA 2475

1. RADIO BRAZZAVILLE ANOUNCED MARCH 19 THAT PRESIDENT NGOUABI
DIED MARCH 18 AT 1330Z AS RESULT OF "SUICIDE COMMANDO" ATTACK.

2. IN COMMUNIQUE BROADCAST ON RADIO BRAZZAVILLE, CONGOLESE
LABOR PARTY (PARTI-CONGOLAIS DU TRAVAIL) ANNOUNCED THAT IT
HAD GRANTED FULL POWERS TO MILITARY COMMITTEE OF 11 OFFICERS
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. COMMITTEE WILL SUPERVISE PREPARATIONS
FOR NGOUABI FUNERAL, MANAGE AFFAIRS OF THE STATE, AND ASSURE
DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY. COMMUNIQUE FURTHER
ANNOUNCED THERE WOULD BE A MONTHS MOURNING AND CURFEW WILL
REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN
5 PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED. IN AN ADDITIONAL COMMUNIQUE,
MILITARY COMMITTEE DENIED RUMORS THAT A CERTAIN INFANTRY
CAPTAIN MOTONDO HAD LED "SUICIDE COMMANDO" SQUAD WHICH KILLED
NGOUABI. COMMITTEE, ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, IS SCOURING
COUNTRY FOR CAPTAIN KEKAGEDIDI (PHON) WHO WAS ACTUAL LEADER
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AND HAS NOW DISAPPEARED.

3. COMMENT: SHOOTING IN BRAZZAVILLE YESTERDAY WAS HEARD IN
KINSHASA. CALM APPEARS TO PREVAIL IN BRAZZAVILLE AND MILITARY
COMMITTEE APPEARS TO BE FULLY IN CHARGE OF SITUATION,
ACCORDING TO RADIO AT LEAST. RADIO BRAZZAVILLE HAS BEEN
PLAYING MARTIAL AND SOMBER MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE MORNING

INTERSPERSED WITH COMMUNIQUE. THERE IS NO INFORMATION ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE OR ITS POLITICAL BENT. HOWEVER, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WITH ITS QUICK APPOINTMENT IT MIGHT CONSIST OF OFFICERS WHO ARE LIKELY TO PURSUE THE POLICIES LAID DOWN BY NGOUABI. FRG AMBASSADOR IN BRAZZAVILLE DERIX ADVISED FRG EMBASSY IN KINSHASA THERE NO INDICATION THAT KEKAGEDIDI HAD ANY POLITICAL BACKING. BELIEF IS THAT ATTACK WAS PERSONAL. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR HERE HAS RECEIVED SAME ASSESSMENT FROM BELGIAN EMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE.

4. DERIX ADVISES THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO CONVEY MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO NGOUABI PRIOR TO LATTER'S DEATH. HE HAS REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS FROM BONN.

CUTLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CF, BE, (NGOUABI, MARIEN), (KEKAGEDIDI)
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